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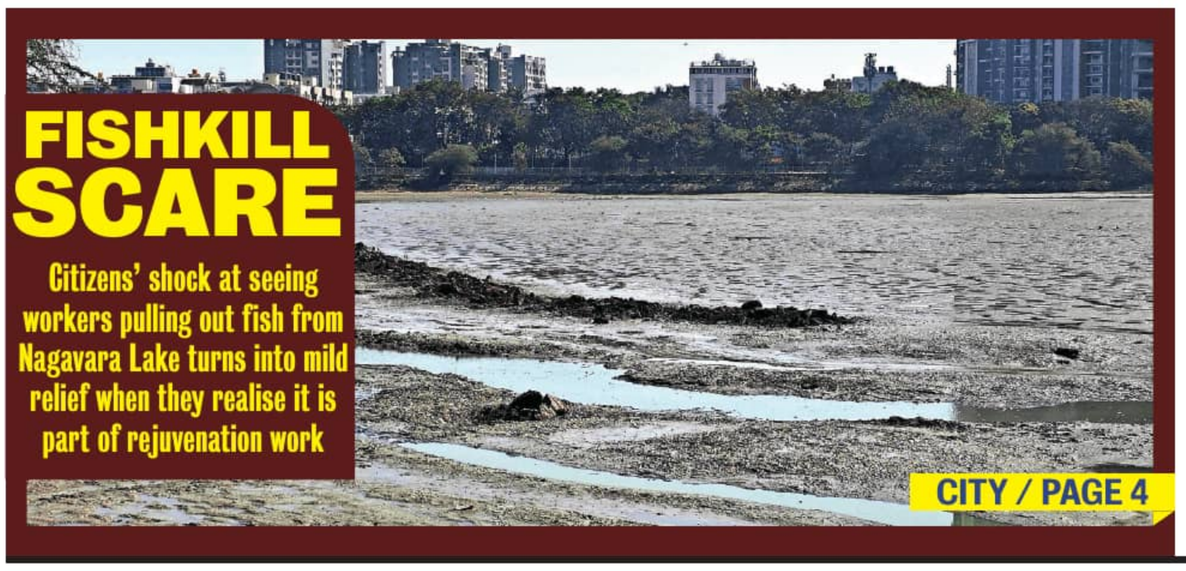
Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 30 | Min 16 | Humidity 65% Mainly Clear sky Sensex 83,313 | Nifty 25,642 | Gold 1,54,420 | Silver 3,00,000 | Dollar 90.36 | Euro 106.30 | GBP 123.03



FISHKILL SCARE

Citizens' shock at seeing workers pulling out fish from Nagavara Lake turns into mild relief when they realise it is part of rejuvenation work

CITY / PAGE 4

TWO TO TANGO

RCB does it twice in a row! Partnerships prevail to seize the day even when Delhi Capitals piled up highest total for WPL final ever

SPORTS / PAGE 9

Fatalities at construction sites that don't have necessary safety gear fall within death by negligence cases and police say among 11,000 such cases recorded in state last year, several are due to this deadly lapse

CAUTION: HUMANS AT WORK

What about regular site inspections, warning signage, and accountability of builders?

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Earlier this week, two people were injured after wooden poles used for renovation work at a hotel near Majestic collapsed at night. The victims became part of a grim statistic -- police officials say negligence in safety precautions at construction sites is a growing concern in the city.

Over the past three years, Karnataka has witnessed at least 11,000 deaths caused by negligence with police registering cases while there are serious concerns over public safety and enforcement gaps.

The people injured in the recent incident escaped with minor head injuries. The sudden crash of the temporary structure, however, damaged several parked bikes and nearby shops. The incident triggered panic among pedestrians and motorists, leading to brief chaos in the busy area. Upparapet police inspected the site and launched an investigation and have registered a case under 304(A) IPC/106 BNS act.

According to police officials the majority of the 'negligence' cases stem from reckless driving, but incidents also involve negligence at construction sites, unsafe electrical installations, gas leaks or general safety failures failure to follow safety protocols in commercial establishments, traffic accidents, loss of life due to negligence of work such as if branch has not been cut, or if potholes are not filled and someone dies due to that, adulterated drugs,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 »

> **"Although the legislation was introduced in 1996 to address negligence at worksites, the prescribed standards and procedures under the Act have still not been properly implemented, resulting in repeated lapses in safety**
>
> —Maitreyi Krishnan, civic activist

Bad trip

Bengaluru drives Karnataka's shift from ganja to synthetic drugs, cocaine

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Karnataka, and Bengaluru in particular, presents a narcotics profile in 2025 that stands in sharp contrast to much of the country. While the state remains a minor contributor in the seizure of traditional drugs such as opium and cannabis, it has alarmingly emerged as one of India's major hotspots for synthetic drugs and cocaine. Data released by the Narcotics Control Bureau for seizures up to November 2025 points to a decisive shift in Karnataka's, largely Bengaluru-driven, drug landscape, highlighting changing consumption patterns, evolving trafficking routes and a new set of challenges for law enforcement agencies.

Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai during his reply in the Lok Sabha said that authorities in Karnataka seized just 3 kg of opium-based drugs and 6,746 kg of cannabis-based drugs during the year. In a national context, these figures are modest. Across India, agencies seized over 3.42 lakh kg of opium-based drugs

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4 »

THINGS TO DO

05 Strings attached

Atta Galatta is bringing a ventriloquism show and workshop by M Santhosh Kumar who specialises in presenting Indian values and culture, blending humour and learning using the art of ventriloquism. **Where: Atta Galatta, Indiranagar; When: February 8, 4 pm**

02 Immersed in tradition

Vandana Subash, a Bharatanatyam performing artiste from Pune and a disciple of Divya Ravi, is presenting a Bharatanatyam performance, with a live ensemble of musicians. **Where: Indian Institute of World Culture, Basavanagudi; When: February 6, 6 pm**

03 Jazz hands

Saxophonist and composer Tineke Postma will be bringing her quartet to Bengaluru with music from her latest album VOYA, a contemporary jazz project shaped by themes of journey, movement, and transformation. **Where: Windmills Craftworks, Whitefield; When: Feb 6 and 7, 9.30 pm**

04 Divine palate

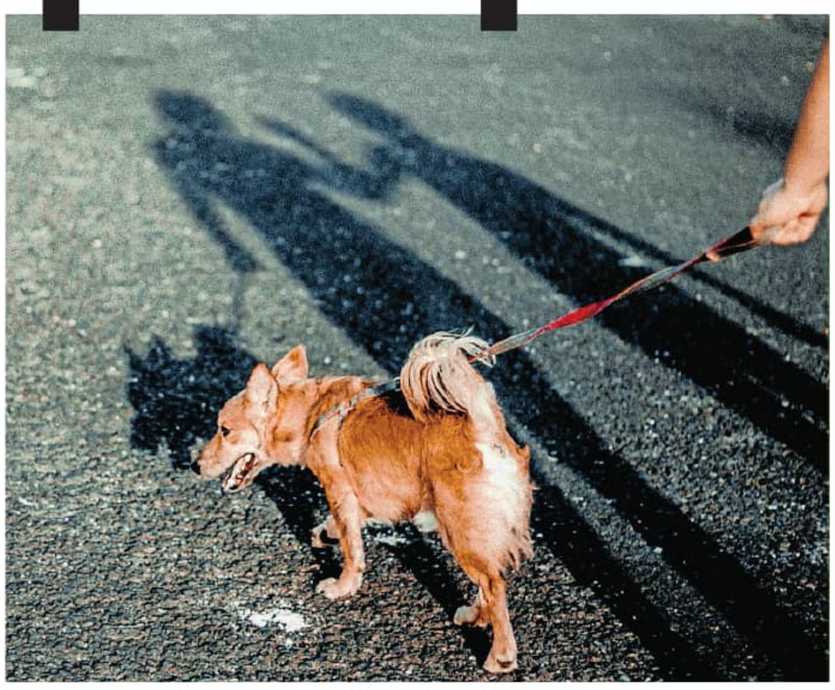
Atta Galatta is bringing 'Divine Delicacies', a unique experience where samples of prasadams from various temples will be served along with stories of places of worship and the perceived food preferences of the divine. **Where: Atta Galatta, Indiranagar; When: February 8, 12.30 pm**

05 Speaking through the heart

Shaam-e-Baazgasht offers an intimate, cosy, and immersive poetry experience drawn from a bilingual Hindi–English collection that journeys through unrequited love, longing, heartbreak, queerness, healing, and the quiet courage of letting go. **Where: Atta Galatta, Indiranagar; When: February 8, 5.30 pm**

'Court's not the place for pet squabble'

Minor disputes involving pets are all too often turning into police complaints, consuming valuable judicial time that could otherwise be devoted to serious offences, says HC



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The Karnataka High Court has expressed concern over an increasing number of minor neighbourhood disputes involving pet dogs being converted into criminal cases, observing that such matters are unnecessarily burdening the criminal justice system. While hearing a petition seeking to quash a criminal case arising from a neighbourhood quarrel over a pet dog, the High Court noted that these disputes, which often stem from everyday irritations, are escalating into police complaints and counter-complaints. The court observed that such cases consume valuable judicial time that could otherwise be devoted to serious offences.

The case before the court arose from an incident between neighbours, where a disagreement over a dog allegedly defecating outside a house escalated into a physical altercation. According to the petitioners, after objections were raised over the dog's behaviour, tempers flared and allegations of assault followed. One side initially approached the police, after which a counter-complaint was filed by the other party, leading to the registration of multiple criminal cases stemming from the same incident.

The petitioners approached the High Court contending that the criminal proceedings initiated against them were retaliatory in nature and were an abuse of the legal process. The High Court, while granting interim relief, observed that disputes of this nature are increasingly finding their way into police stations and courts. The bench indicated that criminal law should not be invoked lightly in matters that are essentially civil or personal disputes between neighbours.

Through these observations, the High Court underscored the need for responsible pet ownership and greater tolerance among neighbours, while also sending a clear message that criminal courts should not be used as a forum to settle trivial personal disputes. The matter has been posted for further hearing on a later date.

'Police inaction no bar to seek relief'

The Karnataka High Court has clarified a crucial point of law regarding what happens when a police station declines to accept or act on a person's complaint. In a recent judgment, a division bench of the High Court said that if the police refuse to register a complaint or take appropriate action, the aggrieved individual does not lose their right to seek justice — they can approach the High Court directly for relief.

The court's order makes it clear that the refusal of the police to take action on a complaint cannot be allowed to become a final barrier to justice. Instead, where police inaction or refusal affects a person's fundamental rights or legal remedies, the High Court's constitutional jurisdiction remains available to the complainant.

According to the bench, this principle applies irrespective of the reasons police may give for refusing to accept a complaint. In explaining the basis of its conclusion, the High Court made another key statement on the scope of this remedy, "If police reject a complaint on merit, the complainant is entitled to challenge the legality of such rejection directly." The court emphasised that refusing to act on a complaint — especially in cases involving serious allegations — cannot be treated as an absolute bar to access to justice.

Man accused of blackmailing partner with intimate photos denied bail

Karnataka HC has declined to grant anticipatory bail to a man accused of blackmailing a woman using her intimate photographs, observing that such conduct cannot be justified even if the parties were in a romantic relationship.
The court was hearing a plea filed by the accused seeking pre-arrest bail after a criminal case was registered against him on allegations that he threatened the woman with the publication of private photographs to coerce her into sexual relations.
Emphasising the gravity of offences involving sexual exploitation and digital blackmail, the court underscored that consent obtained through threats or coercion has no legal sanctity.

Reckless drivers major players in negligence cases

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

collapse of structure and many other such lapses.

As per Karnataka state police data under 304(A) IPC/106 BNS act, last year 2025 11,671 cases had been registered in 2025 which can also be translated as about 973 cases every month and nearly 32 cases each day. Previously, the state recorded slightly higher numbers, with 11,892 cases reported in 2024. The figures were even higher in 2023, when 11,912 cases were registered, indicating that incidents of deaths caused by rashness and negligence have consistently remained above the 11,000 mark over the past three years.

Senior police officers noted that traffic accidents and construction sites account for a significant share of the fatalities. "Even though hit and run cases form a big chunk of these cases, negligence in safety precautions at construction sites cannot be denied," an official said. He explained, "The 304(A) IPC/106 of the BNS addresses causing death by rash or negligent acts not amounting to culpable homicide, which means the person did not have an intention to kill anyone but they know if they neglects safety, it can cause death and if such events occur then its booked under this act. The punishment depends on who was negligent and what they did after the incident."

Maitreyi Krishnan, a civic activist, emphasised on implementation gaps. "Incidents like these continue to occur at construction sites despite the existence of specific laws that clearly outline the safety precautions to be followed. Although the legislation was introduced in 1996 to address negligence at worksites, the prescribed standards and procedures under the Act have still not been properly implemented, resulting in repeated lapses in safety. Even officials from the Labour Department are responsible for ensuring that all safety measures are enforced, but few inspections are carried out due to which even safety is neglected at construction sites."

Recently two construction workers lost their lives after falling from an under-construction apartment building on Balagere Road, under the jurisdiction of the Varthur police station. According to the police, the workers were installing a lift at the site when a material hoist reportedly gave way, causing both men to plunge from a considerable height and suffer fatal injuries on the spot. Civic activist Madhusudhan said that while safety precautions are frequently discussed, they are rarely implemented on the ground. He said, "Even a person walking on footpaths is unsafe due to untrimmed branches and rash drivers riding onto walkways." Highlighting construction hazards, he said workers must be provided helmets, harnesses, safety nets, proper barricading, and insurance coverage. He also stressed on regular site inspections, warning signage, and accountability for builders. He further pointed out persistent footpath encroachments and the need for timely tree trimming before the monsoon.

Child rights panel urges insurance cover for students

With incidents of accidents and other mishaps leaving students seriously injured, permanently disabled or even dead on the rise, the Karnataka State Commission for Protection of Child Rights has urged the state government to roll out a Kerala-style accident and life insurance scheme for school and pre-university students. From burns caused by hot mid-day meal vessels to mishaps during school trips, sports events and electrical accidents, several cases have raised concern, with some incidents even ending in fatalities. The commission said life insurance alone is not enough, as it offers compensation only in case of death, and stressed the need for comprehensive accident insurance to cover injuries, permanent disability, long-term treatment and emergency assistance. **— BMB**

Manipal Hospital Kanakapura Road Commits to Managing Cancer with Compassion and Competence with Comprehensive Cancer Centre (MCCC) Launch

Strengthening India's fight against cancer, the Manipal Hospitals Group, a trusted name in healthcare, has launched the Manipal Comprehensive Cancer Care Centre at its Kanakapura Road facility. Designed to deliver end-to-end oncology services under one roof, the centre brings together advanced diagnostics, evidence-based treatments and compassionate support for cancer patients.

Southern Reach

A significant healthcare milestone for South Bengaluru, the new centre offers a wide range of comprehensive screening services that enable accurate detection of different cancers and support informed medical decision-making. With a strong focus on cancer awareness, early diagnosis and integrated care, the centre aligns with globally accepted oncology practices that improve outcomes when treatment begins early.

Integrated Approach

Cancer is a complex disease and no two patients present the same way. Modern oncology therefore follows a multimodal, multidisciplinary approach. Keeping this in mind, the centre has been structured to be value-driven, patient-centric and accessible, bringing all major diagnostic and therapeutic services together. From cost-effective medicines and coordinated multi-speciality care to advanced treatment platforms and experienced oncologists, the centre is equipped to manage cancers across all stages with clinical rigour and empathy.

Advanced Technology

The facility introduces internationally validated, state-of-the-art technology used in leading cancer centres worldwide. Services such as psycho-oncology, pain management and palliative care are fully integrated, recognising that cancer care must address both physical symptoms and emotional wellbeing. This ensures continuous support for patients and families throughout diagnosis, treatment and recovery.

Quality Healthcare

Inaugurating the centre on World Cancer Day, Minister for Health and Family Welfare Dinesh Gundu Rao said, "Manipal Hospital has earned a strong reputation for quality healthcare at the state and national level. With the launch of a comprehensive cancer care centre on Kanakapura Road, advanced medical services will now be easily accessible to residents of South Bengaluru." He added, "Cancer cases are increasing, but cancer is a treatable disease. There is no need for fear. Early detection and timely treatment significantly reduce life-threatening risks. Through health camps, awareness drives and a door-to-door health campaign, nearly 72 lakh people have been screened, with around 6,500 showing early signs of cancer. For patient convenience, day-care chemotherapy centres have been established in all district hospitals across the state."

Day Care

The centre's Day Care Chemotherapy unit allows patients to receive planned cancer treatment without hospital admission. Patients can return home the same day, maintaining continuity of daily life while receiving high-quality oncology care in a safe, closely monitored environment.

Support Services

Beyond hospital-based treatment, the centre offers Community Oncology and Cancer Rehabilitation services. Community programmes focus on cancer awareness, lifestyle education and low-cost screening, all of which are recognised public health strategies for reducing cancer burden. Post-discharge, patients receive continued care, including supported home care. Cancer rehabilitation services assess individual needs and deliver structured rehabilitation plans to improve physical function, emotional health, daily activity levels and overall quality of life.

With its comprehensive, medically sound and patient-focused model, the Manipal Comprehensive Cancer Care Centre at Kanakapura Road stands as a significant step forward in accessible, modern cancer care for Bengaluru and beyond.

> Manipal Hospitals has emerged as one of the fastest-growing healthcare institutions in the country. By offering quality medical care at affordable costs to the common people and economically weaker patients, it is making a meaningful contribution to the fight against cancer."
>
> **– Dinesh Gundu Rao, Health Minister**

> Cancer is a global health challenge. To strengthen the fight against cancer, we have established the Manipal Comprehensive Cancer Care Centre. The centre is equipped with state-of-the-art medical technology, supported by a highly experienced team of doctors and dedicated nursing staff. Patients will receive advanced and high-quality medical care comparable to leading hospitals in the West."
>
> **– Dr Sudarshan Ballal, Chairman, Manipal Hospitals Group**

Six Sub-specialties

Though organised into six core departments, the centre functions as a single collaborative unit.

- Radiation Oncology features a TrueBeam Linear Accelerator, an advanced platform that enables highly precise radiation delivery while minimising exposure to healthy tissues, in line with current clinical standards.
- Surgical Oncology offers comprehensive basic and advanced cancer surgeries, including procedures supported by fourth-generation robotic technology. Robotic-assisted surgery is clinically associated with smaller incisions, reduced blood loss and faster recovery in suitable cases. A well-equipped Plastic Surgery unit supports breast, head and neck, and soft tissue cancer reconstructions.
- Nuclear Medicine provides both diagnostic and therapeutic services. These include thyroid scans, parathyroid scintigraphy, I-131 scans and specialised imaging for neuroendocrine tumours. Therapeutic services are offered for thyroid cancer, prostate cancer, hepatocellular carcinoma through trans-arterial radio-embolisation, and bone pain palliation, all of which are established nuclear medicine interventions.
- Medical Oncology delivers comprehensive outpatient and inpatient care. The department includes a Day Care Chemotherapy unit offering oral and intravenous chemotherapy, immunotherapy, chemotherapy for leukaemia, and autologous bone marrow transplantation for selected patients, following standard oncological indications.
- Paediatric Haematology Oncology cares for children from birth to 18 years with solid tumours, blood cancers and benign hematologic disorders. The unit performs autologous and matched allogeneic bone marrow transplants, adhering to recognised paediatric oncology protocols.
- Palliative Medicine focuses on pain relief and the management of psychological and social concerns. By supporting shared decision-making, goal-oriented care discussions and advance care planning, the department works to improve quality of life. Early assessment and ongoing symptom management have been shown to make cancer treatment more tolerable and dignified, especially in advanced stages.

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Brooms out, machines in

In a major step towards modernising civic sanitation and improving working conditions for pourakarmikas, the Bengaluru North City Corporation has begun phasing out traditional broom-based street sweeping. On Wednesday, the civic body launched a pilot programme using mechanised cleaning equipment. The initiative was inaugurated by Corporation Commissioner Pommala Sunil Kumar at 1st Main Road near Sahakar Nagar Park.

Under the new system, pourakarmikas will use manual street-sweeping machines with a 55-litre storage capacity, blower machines to clear dust and dry leaves from footpaths, wheel-based dust bins of 120-litre capacity, and traffic cones to ensure safety during cleaning operations. The Commissioner said the initiative aims to make road-cleaning faster, safer and less physically demanding. He personally operated the machines to assess their effectiveness.

"With mechanised cleaning, pourakarmikas can complete more work with less effort. This is a step towards a cleaner and more dignified work environment," he said, adding that feedback from the pilot would guide further procurement. As part of the initiative, the corporation has procured 33 street-sweeping machines, 14 blower machines, 35 wheel-based dust bins and 23 traffic cones. The blower machines are expected to be especially useful during summer, when dry leaves accumulate.

— BMB

Keep calm folks, there's nothing fishy about this

Confusion reigns as rejuvenation begins, citizens alarmed to see what they thought were dead fish due to lake water contamination

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Residents and lake activists have welcomed the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) taking up the much-needed rejuvenation of Nagavara Lake. The project is expected to be completed by November at an estimated cost of ₹15 crore. The contractor engaged workers to catch the remaining fish in the lake. On Thursday morning, a few workers were seen dumping fish on the bund of the lake, leading the public to believe that dead fish were being cleared. "We have taken up the rejuvenation of the lake at an estimated cost of ₹15 crore. The contractor who was granted fishing rights requested us not to drain the water from the lake as he is yet to clear the remaining fish," said GBA Assistant Executive Engineer Shilpa.

She said that apart from removing silt from the lake, some developmental works are also planned. "The quality of water in the lake will improve in the future. We will take measures to prevent sewage from entering the lake. Treated water will be pumped into the lake from a nearby sewage treatment plant," she said.

Many pedestrians and motorists mistook the activity for workers clearing dead fish from the lake. "Most of the black-coloured fish looked dead. I am not sure whether they are clearing fish that are dead or alive," said a motorist.

Workers clear fish from Nagavara Lake ahead of rejuvenation

As lake revamp begins, dumped fish spark rumours, health fears and anger over authorities failing to keep residents informed

Prasad N, a pedestrian, wanted the Health Department to check the quality of the fish for the benefit of the gullible public. "The fish look dirty and the water quality is very bad," he said. A few residents expressed displeasure at not being kept in the loop about the rejuvenation of the water body. "We are not against the rejuvenation of the lake, but the authorities should have informed us about it," said a resident.

Environmental scientist Dr Shobha said that, considering the contamination levels of urban lakes, it is essential for the Fisheries Department to conduct biological assays of fish and certify them as fit for human consumption.

However, the Deputy Director of the Fisheries Department said that the public need not worry about the quality of fish being cleared from Nagavara Lake. "The quality of the fish is good. There will be no adverse impact on those who consume these fish, as they are eaten after being boiled at a high temperature," the Deputy Director said.

Synthetic drugs easier to conceal, faster to distribute, more damaging

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and nearly 5.9 lakh kg of cannabis. States such as Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh dominate the opium category, with Rajasthan alone accounting for more than 1.55 lakh kg. In cannabis, Odisha led the country with over 2.15 lakh kg, followed by Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra. Karnataka does not feature among the top ten states in either of these bulk categories.

A senior police official said, "This data confirms what we have been seeing on the ground for the past few years. Traditional drugs like ganja and opium are no longer the main challenge for Karnataka. The real threat now comes from synthetic drugs and cocaine, which are easier to conceal, faster to distribute and far more damaging. These substances are largely urban-centric and are linked to organised networks that operate across states and even across countries."

The official said the rise in synthetic drug seizures reflects both growing demand and sharper enforcement. "Karnataka's cities, especially Bengaluru, have become attractive markets for designer drugs because of disposable incomes, nightlife culture and digital platforms. We are responding by strengthening intelligence, monitoring courier and online transactions, and focusing on supply chains rather than small-time users. The shift in numbers is a clear signal that policing strategies also have to evolve with the changing nature of the drug trade."

As per Rai's reply, the picture changes dramatically when synthetic drugs are considered. Karnataka recorded seizures of 145 kg of synthetic drugs and 808 blots, placing it sixth nationally in terms of quantity seized and third in blot seizures. Nationally, 3,484 kg of synthetic drugs and 4,778 blots were seized during the year. Cocaine seizures further reinforce Karnataka's emerging profile. With 12.52 kg seized, the state ranked fourth nationally, behind Maharashtra, New Delhi and Tamil Nadu. Considering that the total cocaine seized across India stood at 221 kg, Karnataka's share is significant. This places the state alongside major metropolitan and transit hubs rather than traditional drug-producing regions.

Compared to its southern neighbours, Karnataka's position is striking. Tamil Nadu and Kerala reported higher cannabis seizures but lagged behind Karnataka in synthetic drugs. Police officials added that the data suggested that Karnataka was no longer defined by rural cultivation-linked drug offences but by urban-centric synthetic drug trafficking. This aligns the state more closely with Maharashtra and Delhi than with traditional narcotics belts. For enforcement agencies, the challenge is no longer only about volume but about complexity, as synthetic drugs involve organised networks, online marketplaces and international supply chains.

Another police official added, "Bengaluru's growing prominence in synthetic drugs and cocaine signals a shift that demands sharper intelligence, cyber monitoring and urban-focused policing to prevent deeper entrenchment of these substances in the social fabric."

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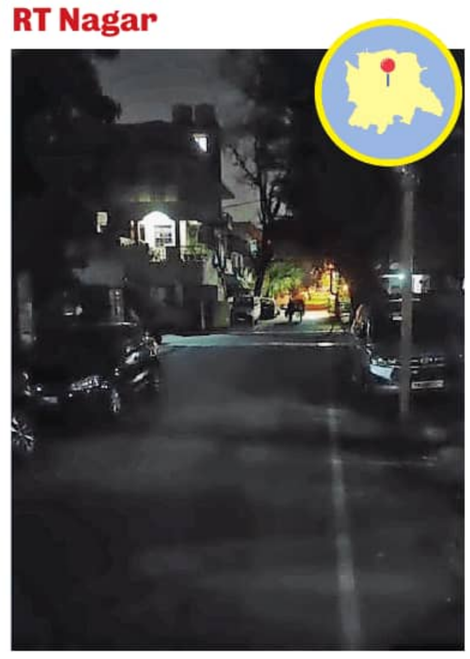
◎ Faulty streetlights

RT Nagar



Street lights are not functioning properly at RT Nagar, Block 1, 12th Cross, opposite the Nandini Milk Booth.

◎ Illegal banners

KR Puram

Illegal flex banners are seen across the Medahalli and Bhattarahalli areas of KR Puram.

◎ Unsafe road

Indiranagar

A damaged stretch covering half the width of 13th Cross, Indiranagar 2nd Stage, near 10th Main, has become highly unsafe, especially after dark.

Garbage smoke turns morning air unbreathable

Illegal waste fires unleash choking fumes across neighbourhoods

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Hundreds of residents living near Bellahalli Cross in north Bengaluru woke up to a toxic haze on Thursday morning, which they described as 'Delhi-like' air.

What initially appeared to be fog, accompanied by a pungent smell blanketing the area in the early morning hours, later turned out to be fumes from the open and unauthorised burning of waste, including plastic and hazardous materials.

"I left for the office around 7 am when I encountered the foggy air. There was a strong, pungent smell, and visibility was affected. Many mistook it for fog, but it was due to the open burning of waste near Bellahalli junction," said a resident.

The blanket of fumes covered an area of at least a two-kilometre radius from the burning site and lingered for a couple of hours.

"One of the residents in our layout posted a message about this mysterious fog on a social media group. I opened my window to look outside, and my house immediately filled with smoke and a foul smell," said Rashmi (name changed), a resident of Brigade Bricklane, a residential complex nearly two kilometres away from the unauthorised garbage-burning site.

Rashmi immediately switched on her air purifier, only to find that the air quality in her area was 'poor'.

"The purifier's Air Quality Index reading was 255, which is one of the worst I have noticed in my many years of living in the area. Bengaluru is no longer the city I moved to," she said.

Residents living in various apartment complexes in the area said they have been enduring toxic fumes from unauthorised garbage burning for more than two years.

Several residential complexes on Kannuru Road in Bellahalli, including Sobha Dream Gardens, Nikoo Homes, Brigade Bricklane and Brigade Northridge, have raised the issue of illegal garbage burning on various platforms over the past couple of years.

Residents have not only conducted online campaigns against illegal garbage burning in and around the Mittaganahalli landfill but have also approached the Greater Bengaluru Authority (formerly the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike) and lodged complaints with the jurisdictional police station. However, there has been no respite.

Unidentified waste fires cloud residential skylines during morning hours

Plastic-laced smoke from unauthorised burning spread kilometres across northern neighbourhoods, forcing households to shut windows, run purifiers and fear daily exposure to toxic air

"The smoke, apart from leaving behind a stench, also irritates the eyes and nose, causing discomfort every time we step out or stand on our balconies. Not only the foul smell from the landfill, but unauthorised open garbage burning has also made living in the area risky. We are inhaling toxic fumes daily," said another resident.

Consulates targeted in hoax bomb threat

The Halasuru police have registered a case following a bomb threat email targeting the Italian Consulate in the city, triggering a security scare and heightened police vigilance on Richmond Road. According to the Halasuru police, Giandomenico Milano, Consul General of the Italian Consulate located on the second floor of the Vaishnavi Icon building, lodged a formal complaint on January 30 after receiving a threatening email. The message, sent around 5.25 am on January 29, claimed that "5 RDX" had been planted at the consulate and warned of an explosion at 1 pm. It also demanded that diplomats evacuate the building by 10 am.

The email, sent from gaina_ramesh@outlook.com to multiple official consulate accounts, prompted an immediate security response, including deployment of bomb disposal squads and a thorough inspection. No suspicious objects were found, and the threat is suspected to be a hoax. A case has been registered for criminal intimidation and threats. A similar email sent to the Japanese Consulate a day earlier led to a police case, now under investigation.

–BMB

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Metro fare hike pushes commuters over edge

Citizen groups and passenger associations warn of protests, stressing that with living expenses continuing to climb, further increase in fares remains intolerable

| Bangalore Mirror Bureau
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Metro commuters in Bengaluru are preparing to oppose the 5 per cent hike in ticket fares, announced barely a year after the previous revision. The Bengaluru Metro Rail Corporation Limited plans to implement the revised fares from February 9, drawing criticism from daily commuters, citizen groups and passenger associations who say the increase will add to the financial pressure on the middle class.

Protest warning

Citizen groups and metro passenger associations have warned of protests if the fare hike is implemented. Civic activist Krishna Hegde said annual fare revision is not mandatory and that any increase will face resistance. With living costs continuing to rise, commuters say another hike is unacceptable and have indicated that protests may intensify in the coming days.

Union criticism

Employee unions and commuter bodies have also criticised the move, stating that BMRCL should focus on reducing expenditure and improving revenue through non-fare sources instead of repeatedly increasing ticket prices. Suryanarayanamurthy, Vice President of the BMRCL Employees Union, said the organisation could save several hundred crores by curbing avoidable expenses and strengthening non-fare revenue. He added that both the government and the corporation appear more inclined to raise fares than cut costs.

Employee unions urge BMRCL to cut avoidable expenses and strengthen non-fare revenue instead of repeatedly increasing ticket prices

BMRCL CPRO defends hike, says Fare Fixation Committee has suggested transparent annual automatic revision tied to operating costs or five per cent yearly, whichever lower, to prevent sharp increases in future

Revised fares

BMRCL has revised zone-wise fares with effect from February 9, 2026, increasing ticket prices across all distance slabs. The minimum fare for travel up to 2 km has gone up from Rs 10 to Rs 11. Fares for 2 to 4 km have increased to Rs 21, 4 to 6 km to Rs 32, 6 to 8 km to Rs 42, and 8 to 10 km to Rs 53. For distances of 10 to 15 km, the fare is now Rs 63, 15 to 20 km Rs 74, and 20 to 25 km Rs 84. For journeys of 25 to 30 km and above 30 km, the fare has been revised from Rs 90 to Rs 95.

Official defence

Defending the hike, the BMRCL CPRO Yashavanth Chavan said the Fare Fixation Committee noted that a revision carried out after a gap of 7.5 years, along with the reduction of fare zones from 29 to 10, had resulted in an average fare increase of 51.55 per cent. To avoid such sharp increases in the future, the committee recommended a transparent Annual Automatic Fare Revision Formula linked to operating and maintenance costs or five per cent per year, whichever is lower. Based on audited financial data, costs had increased by 10.20 per cent, but the fare hike was capped at five per cent as per committee norms.

Discount continuity

BMRCL will continue to offer discounts for Smart Card and NCMC users, including a five per cent discount during peak hours, a 10 per cent discount during non-peak hours, and a 10 per cent discount on Sundays and three National Holidays. The five per cent annual increase also applies to Tourist Cards and Group Tickets, with revised fares for One Day, Three Day and Five Day Tourist Cards applicable for both Smart Card and Mobile QR users.

Leopard terror haunts West B'luru village for seven months straight

Authorities plan to fit an identification chip if captured, to assess whether the leopard has established a pattern of entering human habitation

| Garima Prasher
garima.prasher@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

A leopard on the prowl in Chunchunkuppe Village and surrounding areas in the outskirts of West Bengaluru has led to locals living in fear for past seven months. Locals say the big cat has taken away four to five animals between June 2025 and now, including street and pet dogs from the area. In the latest episode, the leopard was spotted in the early morning hours of February 4, when it mauled yet another pet dog. The incident, captured on a resident's CCTV camera, has renewed demands from villagers for immediate intervention by the Karnataka Forest Department.

"The leopard has been coming to the village repeatedly since August last year. The frequency of its visits is so high that we have fenced our houses with metal rods to ensure it does not enter. On Wednesday early morning, it came again and was caught on camera. It also took away our neighbour's dog," said Ganesh, the pet owner who recorded the footage.

CCTV sightings, missing pets, and rising fear prompt villagers to fence homes as forest officials place cages and increase patrols across the troubled rural outskirts of west Bengaluru area

Residents say fear has become part of daily life, with people avoiding early-morning and late-night movement. Many families have begun keeping their pets indoors round the clock. "We had two pet dogs, one Labrador and one Rottweiler. The leopard took away the Rottweiler last year. Since then, we keep our other dog inside the house. Even so, the leopard has visited our house multiple times, apparently looking for it," another resident said. Ravindra Kumar, Deputy Conservator of Forests, Bengaluru Urban, confirmed that the department has received multiple complaints from the village. He said officials believe the leopard may be straying from the nearby Basavanna Betta forest area. "The villagers have reported constant leopard attacks. We have placed two cages in the area to capture the animal," he said.

If captured, the leopard will be fitted with an identification chip to assess whether it has developed habitual behaviour of entering human settlements and feeding on domestic animals. "The current plan is to capture and relocate it to another area to stop these conflict incidents. If it is found to be habitual, a further decision will be taken," Kumar added.

Meanwhile, forest officials have advised villagers to remain cautious, secure livestock and pets, and avoid venturing out alone in low-light hours. Patrolling by KFD staff in and around the village has also been intensified.

CRIME FILES

Fake Flipkart link triggers ₹3 lakh fraud

A 35-year-old woman has filed a police complaint after cyber fraudsters allegedly siphoned off more than ₹3 lakh from her credit cards by tricking her into clicking a fraudulent link posing as a Flipkart message. According to the complaint, the woman received a message related to an online order on February 2, 2026, around 2.58 pm. Moments after opening the link, her incoming calls and SMS were automatically diverted, indicating that her mobile phone had been compromised. Soon after, multiple unauthorised transactions were carried out using her credit cards. — BMB

Landlord booked for skipping C-Form

Kothanur police have registered a case against a house owner for allegedly failing to inform authorities about foreign nationals residing on his premises, violating provisions of the Foreigners Act and related rules. Police said landlords renting out accommodation to foreign nationals are legally required to submit a C-Form with tenant details to the local police station. This obligation is mandated under Section 7 of the Foreigners Act, 1946, Rule 14(6) of the Registration of Foreigners Rules, 1992, and Order 16 of the Foreigners Order, 1948, and non-compliance is punishable. — BMB

Trio's theft attempt ends in violence

A 24-year-old autorickshaw driver, allegedly caught attempting to commit theft at a house in Chokkanahalli, has filed a complaint claiming he was assaulted by local residents. Based on his statement, the Sampigehalli police have registered a case and launched an investigation. The accused, Azhar Khan, a resident of RT Nagar, reportedly confessed during questioning that he, along with two associates, would roam residential areas in an autorickshaw and commit petty thefts. Police said the trio mainly targeted houses to steal small electrical items and other valuables, which were later sold for cash. — BMB

Four arrested for staged murder

Bengaluru Rural police have arrested four people, including a woman and her alleged lover, for the murder of her husband, a case initially projected as a road accident in Hoskote taluk. The victim, Ashok (40), was found dead near a curve on a village road in Siddanahalli on January 24. Preliminary suspicion pointed to a hit-and-run, but inconsistencies at the spot and doubts raised by villagers led Sulibele police to conduct a deeper probe. Pushpa and her lover conspired with two others, lured Ashok on drinking pretext, killed him with iron rod, staged accident; all four arrested. — BMB

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Housing scheme stalled, final beneficiary list awaited

Allocation of flats built under the Chief Minister's One Lakh Multi-Storey Housing Scheme has been delayed as the final beneficiary list is yet to be released. The Rajiv Gandhi Housing Corporation has constructed multi-storey apartments across several parts of Bengaluru, with many applicants having paid their share and waiting for six to seven years for a home. After beneficiaries staged a protest in early January, officials had assured that the final list would be published by January 31, but the process remains incomplete and is now set to be further delayed.

Officials said the delay is due to changes in the selection process following the formation of the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) and five new municipal corporations, with local MLAs now being included for approval of beneficiaries. Under the scheme, 548 beneficiaries were earlier identified for a Rs 5 lakh subsidy, with applicants required to pay the remaining Rs 3 lakh.

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I, JACINTHA RANI J S, W/o. Late Raguram R S, residing at No. 94, Abbi Nest, 5th Cross, Ayyappa Garden, Shanthinagar, Bangalore-560027, have changed my minor daughter's name from JUANISHA R J to JUANISHA NICOLINE R J, vide affidavit dated 03.02.2026, sworn before notary S Jayanth, Bangalore.

I, Chandrakala Lingareddy R/o 130/14, Samyata, Near Ashoka Residency, Doddakannalli, Carmelaram Bengaluru 560035 have changed my name to Chandrakala Narayanareddy (Chandrakala N) I shall be called by this name for all purposes

I, Rathan Barfa D S/O Dhagalaram, R/o 0 N0 45/17, Mohit House, opp aaimata temple, Meenakshi Layout, Siddapura, Bengaluru North, PO: Whitefield, District: Bengaluru, State: Karnataka-560066, have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known as D Ratan Barfa.

I, Shetty Dayananda Ramanna R/o B.201, CBR prakruthi Apt, Flower garden road Babusapalya, Bengaluru 560043 have changed my name to Dayanand Ramanna Shetty. I shall be called by this name for all purposes

I, JAMUNA M., Aged 50 yrs, W/o. P. Madesh, R/o. #57, 11th Cross, Virat Nagar, N. R. L/o., Bommanahalli, Blr-68, have changed my name to PRAMILA vide affidavit Dt: 04/02/26 before Notary M. Rajendra, Blr.

I, Ramesh Patil S/o, Hanamant Patil R/o No 10/7 3rd Floor Ramakrishnaiah Street Sheshadripuram, Bengaluru 560020 have changed my name to Ramesh H Patil for all purposes.

I Sonali Baloji D/O, Subhash R/o Huddar Oni, A/p Ainapur, Dist- Belagavi, Tq- Athani, Pin-591303 have changed my name to Sonali Kempawade

GUPTA Suresh Kumar Kunjilalji R/o. 1101, Habitat Eden Heights, Tower 1, Hoodi Circle, Bengaluru 560048, changed my name as Gupta Suresh Kumar.

I, Sudha Shantharam D/O H C.Puttegowda R/o No-134, 8th Main RD, Bikasipura main Rd, JP Nagar, B'lore-560078 have changed my name to Amrutha Puttegowda for all purposes.

I SAHIN TAJ W/O Mohammed Saleem Pasha R/@ No 198/21 6th Main Shamanna Nagar Bangalore 560026 has changed my name to SHAHEEN TAJ for all purposes

I,MR.ADINARAYANA.M, son of M.Narayana Reddy, resident of Bengaluru, have corrected my name from Adinarayana Mudamala to Adinarayana Mudumala for passport purposes.

I Venugopalareddy B N S/O, B H Narayana Reddy R/o #61/339 Mutsandra Road Behind Subregister Office Varthur Bangalore 560087 have changed my name to B N Venugopal Reddy.

I, SHARANABASAYYA, R/a Muneshwara L/o, 2nd Cross, Near Bottle Factory, Gejjagada halli Main Road, Dasanapura, Bengaluru-562123, have changed my name to C N SHARAN (Channayya Naregal Sharan), vide affidavit dt: 05/02/2026 Notary V Anjanappa, B.lore.

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AS GOOD AS IT GETS

Mandhana, Voll power RCB to second WPL title as DC suffer another heartbreak

Displaying absolute dominance, a Smrit Mandhana-inspired Royal Challengers Bengaluru lifted their second Women's Premier League trophy with a six-wicket victory over Delhi Capitals, who failed to seize the moment on the biggest stage despite playing in their fourth final here on Thursday.

RCB captain Mandhana looked in imperious touch on way to a magnificent 87 off 41 balls, while Georgia Voll smashed 79 in 54 deliveries during a 165-run partnership for the second wicket with her skipper, which paved the way for a memorable title triumph.

This was after skipper Jemimah Rodrigues rose to the occasion with a scintillating half-century and Chinelle Henry blazed away to a 15-ball 35 to lift Delhi Capitals to an imposing 203 for four.

Laura Wolvaardt (44 not out off 25 balls) and Lizelle Lee (37 off 30 balls) also made quick runs after DC were put in. Rodrigues slammed 57 off 37 balls.

In reply, RCB completed the record chase with two balls remaining while joining Mumbai Indians as the most successful teams in the WPL.

In the stiff chase, RCB lost the big wicket of Grace Harris (9) early but skipper Smriti Mandhana and Georgia Voll kept them in the contest by scoring quickly and keeping pace with the required run rate.

Both Mandhana and Georgia drove anything that was pitched up with ease, pulled and cut the short balls with authority as RCB reached 100 exactly at the halfway mark. requiring 104 runs in 60 balls.

Meanwhile Mandhana, having just hit two sixes, raced to her fifty in 23 balls with a sublime boundary against Sneh Rana.

Voll was also at her best at the other end, dispatching everything that was in her arc with utter disdain.

The equation came down to 54 of 36 balls after Mandhana smashed Shree Charani for two boundaries to take RCB to 150 in 14 overs.

The two continued to dominate until Voll gave her wicket away to Minnu Mani, raising DC hopes. However, RCB held their nerves to emerge winners.

Earlier, the Royal Challengers were on the money in the first three overs with Lauren Bell and Sayali Satghare conceding just nine runs as Shafali Verma and Lee did not get enough width to free their arms.

However, the fourth over bowled by Satghare saw the Capitals release the pressure with Lee clobbering the medium pacer's half-volley and half-tracker two successive sixes -- one over long-off and another over mid-wicket.

There was then an appeal for a stumping thanks to Richa Ghosh's enterprise and it was followed by Satghare failing to latch on to a difficult caught and bowled chance, ending an eventful over that yielded the Capitals 20 runs and gave them the much-needed momentum after the sluggish start.

With DC reaching 36 after five overs, skipper Smriti Mandhana introduced Arundhati Reddy into the attack and Shafali straightaway collected two fours. However, Reddy hit back with the wicket of Shafali with a short ball, which was smartly taken by Ghosh behind the stumps.

The classy Laura Wolvaardt began with an exquisite boundary before Lee welcomed of-spinner Shreyanka Patil into the attack with two fours and a six on the trot, lifting DC to 72 for one in seven overs.

1. Royal Challengers Bengaluru's captain Smriti Mandhana plays a shot; 2.Royal Challengers Bengaluru's Sayali Satghare celebrates after dismissing Delhi Capitals captain Jemimah Rodrigues; 3. Smriti Mandhana, left, with teammate Georgia Voll

Highest score in WPL final

Earlier, Delhi Capitals (DC) displayed a strong batting performance as they posted 203/4 in 20 overs. Asked to bat first, Jemimah Rodrigues-led Capitals also smashed the highest-ever team total in the final of WPL history. Rodrigues top-scored with 57, followed by Laura Wolvaardt (44) and Chinelle Henry (35*). The Delhi Capitals were off to a cautious start, scoring just 9/0 in three runs. However, Lizelle Lee and Shafali Verma shifted gears as the Capitals reached 36/0 after five overs.

Speedster Arundhati Reddy got the much-needed breakthrough after she dismissed Verma during the fifth ball of the sixth over. Reddy dismissed the Delhi opener for 20 off 13 balls, with three fours. She also broke the 53-run stand for the opening wicket. During the third ball of the eighth over, Nadine de Klerk dismissed wicketkeeper-batter Lee for 37 off 30 balls, with three fours and three sixes, as Capitals reached 74/2. After the end of 10 overs, Delhi scored 94/2, with captain Jemimah Rodrigues and Laura Wolvaardt steadying the ship for their side. Jemimah and Wolvaardt continued their domination over Bengaluru overs as Delhi made 113/2 after the end of 12 overs. The Delhi captain slammed her century in 32 deliveries during the fifth ball of the 15th over. The thirty-two-ball fifty by Rodrigues is the second quickest in WPL playoffs behind Nat Sciver-Brunt's 29-ball fifty against GG-W in last year's eliminator.

Rodrigues celebrates her half century

Davis Cup tennis returns to Garden City

Take the Metro and walk up to the S. M. Krishna Tennis Stadium on February 7 and 8, 2026. For there will be no place to park your vehicles in Cubbon Park as the Garden City gears up to host the Davis Cup tennis clash between India and Switzerland.

This is the Round 1 Qualifiers and the contest will get underway with two singles matches on the opening day with the doubles and the reverse singles on the second day after the official draw to take place on Feb 6, 2026.

The Netherlands are currently ranked No. 4 in the world They were the runners-up at the 2024 Davis Cup. India are ranked No. 33 and will be facing a stiff challenge. The Netherlands Davis Cup team, meanwhile, which arrived in the city on Tuesday, Feb 3, 2026 to get acclimated to the local conditions have No 88 ranked Jesper de Jong and Guy den Ouden in singles, with the experienced pair of David Pel and Sander Arends featuring in the doubles under non-playing Captain Paul Haarhuis.

India's campaign will be led in singles by Sumit Nagal, Dhakshineswar Suresh and Karan Singh. Yuki Bhambri and Rithvik Bollipalli are set to pair off in the doubles. The Indian team will be led by Rohit Rajpal as Captain and Ashutosh Singh as the Coach. The city is home to the ITF W100 and ATP Challenger 125 tournaments. The Billie Jean King Cup and the World Tennis League were also held last year. The stadium has hosted the Davis Cup on five previous occasions, beginning with 1970's Eastern Zone Final, when Ramanathan Krishnan led India defeated Australia 3-1. The venue played host again in 1985 for the India-Sweden tie in World Group quarter-finals. Sweden had five of the top ten players in the World in the team including Mats Wilander, Stefan Edberg, Joakim Nystrom and Anders Jarryd. Not until 2013 when Indonesia came for an Asia-Oceania Group I encounter did Bengaluru witness Davis Cup action. In 2014, Serbia arrived for a World Group play-off clash but without Novak Djokovic.

The Karnataka State Lawn Tennis Association hosted India's Asia-Oceania Group I tie with Uzbekistan in 2016. The city was also chosen for the 2017 and India produced a brilliant display to win 4-1 and earn a promotion to the World Group play-offs. But thereafter, the hard courts have not witnessed any Davis Cup action.

-SS Shreekumar

Match Schedule:
Saturday, 7 February 2026 – 4 pm onwards
(Two Singles Matches)

Sunday, 8 February 2026 – 2 pm onwards
(Doubles followed by Reverse Singles)

Tickets for the tie are now live and can be purchased on Ticketgenie:
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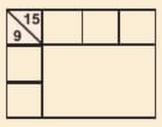
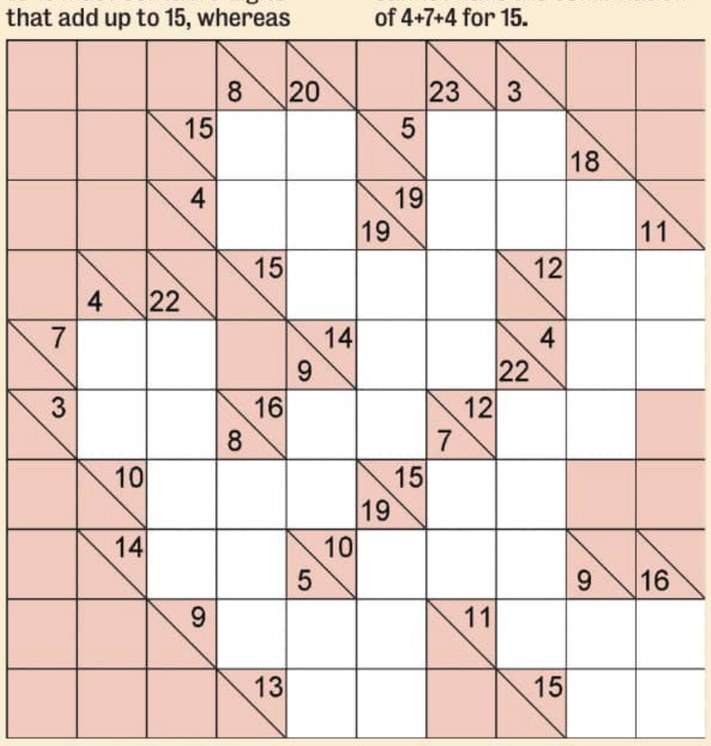
(7 x (7/8) ÷ 1.2 + 1 (3/4)) = ?

Kakuro

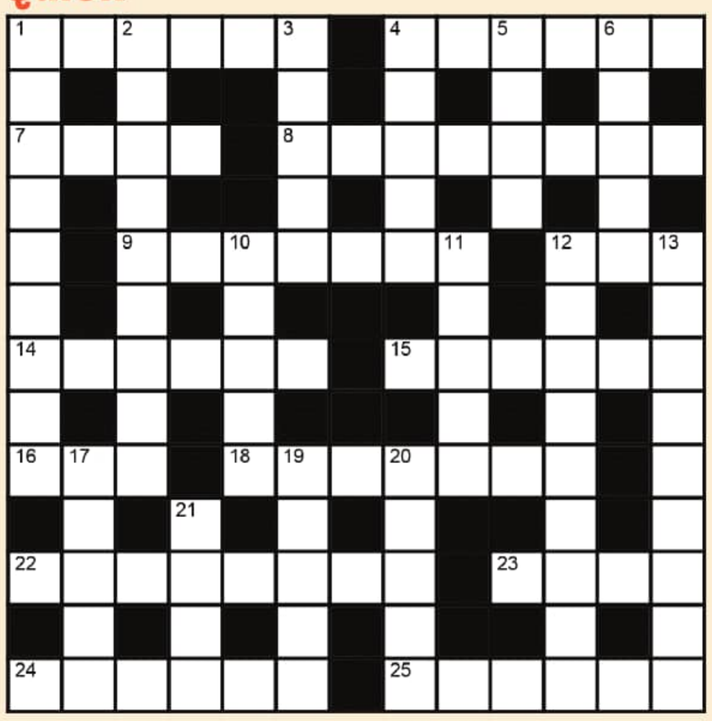
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 A break or gap (6)
4 Wrinkle (6)
7 Lumps or protuberances (4)
8 Went on board (8)
9 Sampling food (7)
12 Psychic power (3)
14 Wild ass or donkey (6)
15 Pradhan ___ : Prime Minister for us? (6)
16 Lad (3)
18 Male child of one's spouse by a former marriage (7)
22 22 acre park between M.G Road and Cubbon Road (8)
23 A speech disorder (4)
24 Wagered or staked (6)
25 Prolonged shrill sound or cry (6)

DOWN

1 Hexagonal wax structure (9)
2 Subject to personal whims (9)
3 Perspire (5)
4 Woods hut (5)
5 Gain by work (4)
6 Sesame and cumin? (5)
10 Appears to be? (5)
11 Objectives (5)
12 Wide-ranging (9)
13 Headmaster (9)
17 Egg-shaped (5)
19 Drank to excess (5)
20 Blueprints (5)
21 The main point (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: O EQUALS G

IJOWQRFRQO RV PLWU XIM GI HKNIJK XIM GI VIYKULRQO, VI ULWU PLKQ XIM GI RU, RU RV QIU WAA YRZKG MT.

Linemaro

I don't have a dirty mind. I have a sexy imagination

Mindchow

There is greatness in doing something you hate for the sake of someone you love

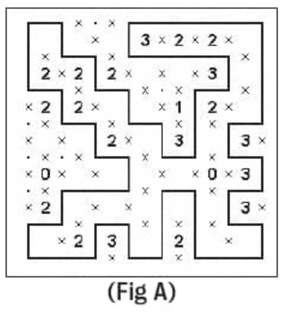
Joke of the day

I come from a small town whose population never changed; each time a woman got pregnant, someone left town

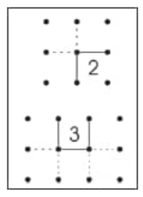
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)

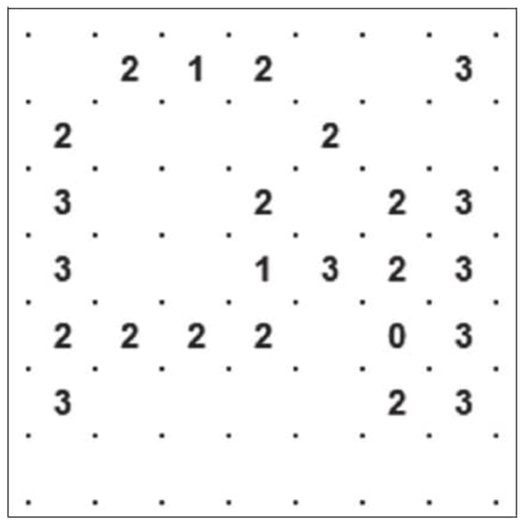


(Fig B) Not Allowed

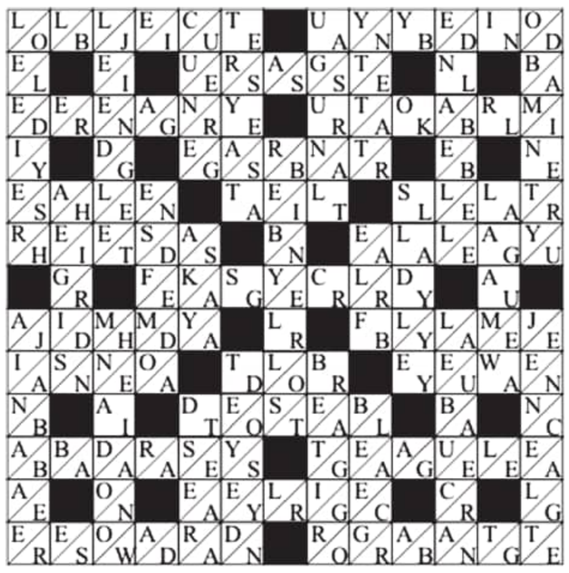
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



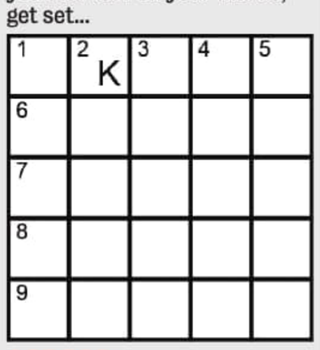
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

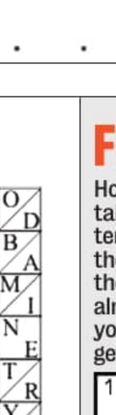
1 Rek is; 6 An pad; 7 Until; 8 CE jet; 9 DIY TT

DOWN

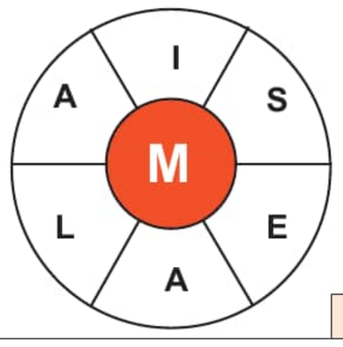
1 Dupes; 2 Janki; 3 I lent; 4 Cited; 5 At Try

Mensapuzzle

Which number goes at the bottom to start the sequence?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

12 Average; **14** Good; **16** Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

2		1	5			7		9
7				4	9		6	
				3				
	2		4					5
3								8
4					3		9	
				7				
	3		2	8				7
8		5			4	2		6

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy

□□□□□□□ = 7

2 3 7 9

Medium

□□□□□□□ = 14

1 2 4 7

Hard

□□□□□□□ = 11

2 2 5 6

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

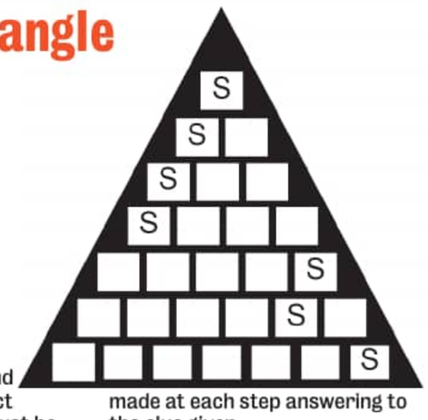
Differences: 1. Oven mitt is different. 2. Apron bow is missing. 3. Apron is shorter. 4. Table leg is moved. 5. Leaves are missing. 6. Window is wider.

Riddler

Each group of words has one four letter prefix that fits in front of them to form another word or phrase. Can you figure out which word it is for each group?

Alpha triangle

1 Sulphur symbol
2 Thus
3 Tippler
4 Do the mail
5 Army outposts
6 Wooded area
7 Helps grow



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Popeye

I WANTS TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT ME SWEETIE!
A WONDERFUL GIRL...SHE WILL MAKE A GOOD QUEEN!!
YA HAS HER WORKIN' IN'A LAUNDRY!
INDEED I DO!
SHE DOES A WONDERFUL SHIRT!!
!THUNK!
5-8
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popeye.com

Bizarrotrip

Wayno & Piraro 10·28·25
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BIZARRO.COM
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HOMETOWN GASTROPODS
HOMETOWN GASTROPODS
I'm a fan too, but I'm more at the T-shirt level than tattoo level.

Diamond Lil

IS THAT THING REALLY STUCK ON YOUR HEAD, HERMAN?
YEAH, GOOD AND TIGHT
ANYTHING I CAN DO FOR YOU?
I COULD USE A HOLE
A HOLE?
AND A STRAW
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Hart of the city

I HOPE YOU'RE NOT DOING HOMEWORK DURING LUNCH.
THIS IS A SACRED TIME TO TURN OUR BRAINS OFF.
I GOTTA WRITE THESE LETTERS, OR ELSE I'M GONNA HAVE A BAD MONDAY!
LET ME SEE THAT.
WHY ARE THERE EMOJI ON A HANDWRITTEN LETTER?
HEART OF THE CITY © 2025 ANDREWS MCMEEL
@OCOMICS.COM/HEARTOFTHECITY

Crankshaft

YOU'VE GOT TO STOP OBSESSING OVER THE IDENTITY OF THE PIZZA MONSTER, MIN...
I KNOW...
REMEMBER... HE'S ONE OF OUR SILENT PARTNERS IN MONTONI'S!
I KEEP SHOOTING MYSELF IN THE FOOT THAT FEEDS ME.
YOU SOUND MORE LIKE YOUR GRAMPS EVERY DAY.
ARE MY EARS SUPPOSED TO BE BURNING?
10-28
BATIUK & DAVIS

Mutts

SHTINKY PUDDIN' HEAD, ARE YOU LOST AGAIN?
I'M NOT LOST!
I'M RIGHT HERE
...BUT I'D SURE LIKE TO KNOW WHERE MY HOUSE WANDERED OFF TO!
mutts.com
www.kingfeatures.com
10-28

WRITTEN IN THE STARS

DR SUNDEEP KOCHAR

If it's your birthday today

Your birthday marks the start of a year focused on stability and emotional depth. Career progress is steady, with major recognition arriving by November. Romance blossoms in quiet, domestic settings, fostering true intimacy. Exploring local hidden gems provides the perfect travel escape. Financial planning now yields great results by year-end. Balance your drive for success with moments of reflection.

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20

Focus on growing your savings today by resisting any non-essential spending. Be mindful and cautious if someone new shows romantic interest, ensuring you protect your heart while staying open.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20

Explore your romantic side today by expressing your true feelings to someone special. It is also an ideal time to evaluate your career and begin working toward your long-term professional goal.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21

Keep moving forward with strength and perseverance rather than dwelling on the past. Your time is incredibly precious, so focus on the new opportunities ahead instead of any missed professional opportunities.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23

Dedicate your time today to learning fresh skills at work and discovering new traits in your partner. Exploring future housing options will also bring a sense of excitement and possibility.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23

Address any unfinished tasks today and reflect on your personal growth. Commit yourself fully to pursuing new opportunities with vigour, as your dedication will lead to significant and rewarding future.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23

Reassert your professional excellence today after a period of social connection. Find a quiet moment for gratitude, as your prayerful mind-set will help you welcome the good luck coming soon.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22

Use your current surge of energy to excel at work and handle household chores with ease. Remember that love lives in small gestures, so show your affection through helpful, kind

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22

Keep your long-term goals in mind even if your motivation feels low today. Contemplating your future path and planning your next steps will ensure you stay on the right track.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22

Your natural charisma and appearance will attract positive attention and enhance your social life today. Focus on your assigned tasks at work to remain efficient without overextending your current energy.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20

Take a moment to unwind and practice meditation to maintain your inner calm today. If you develop a small crush, enjoy the feeling, as it is perfectly normal and healthy.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19

Prioritise relaxation and do more of what you love today. Expressing appreciation for those around you will strengthen your relationships and bring a sense of joy to your entire community.

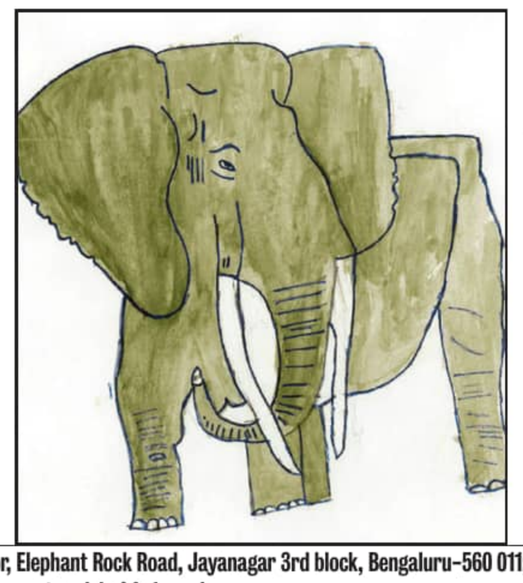
Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20

Your heightened intuition today will help your positive expectations materialize beautifully. With luck and finances in your favour, consider being a generous giver and treating your family to something special.

www.sundeepkochar.com

KIDZONE

Varun, Bengaluru



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SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M

(49/8 ÷ 1.2 + 7/4)
= (6.125 ÷ 1.2 + 1.75)
= (5.104 + 1.75) = 6.85

RIDDLER

1. Head, 2. High, 3. Foot, 4. Fire

STRIKE OUT

O	B	J	E	C	T		U	N	B	E	N	D		
L		I		E	R	A	S	E		N		A		
I		G		E	S	B	A	T		B		N		
D	E	N	A	R	Y		U	A	K	A	R	I		
S	A	L	E		T	I	L		S	L	A	T		
H	E	E	D	S		B		E	L	E	G	Y		
	G		E	A	G	E	R	L	Y		A			
A	S	E	A		D	O	R		Y	U	A	N		
B		A		T	O	T	A	L		B		C		
B	A	D	A	S	S		T	E	G	U	L	A		
E		O		A	E	R	I	E		R		G		
R	E	W	A	R	D		O	R	A	N	G	E		

FAST FIVE

S	K	I	E	R
P	A	N	D	A
U	N	L	I	T
E	J	E	C	T
D	I	T	T	Y

QUOTE UNCODE

Organizing is what you do before you do something, so that when you do it, it is not all mixed up.

QUICK

B	E	T	T	E	D		S	Q	U	E	A	L		
	T		S		E		N		V			A		
C	A	R	I	A	P	P	A		L	I	S	P		
	V		G		O		L			S		I		
B	O	Y		S	T	E	P	S	O	N		C		
M		R		M			L		E			N		
O	N	A	G	E	R		M	A	N	T	R	I		
C		R		E			O		X			R		
Y		T	A	S	T	I	N	G		E	S	P		
E		I		A		I		N		D				
N	U	B	S		E	M	B	A	R	K	E	D		
C		R		W		A		A		E				
H	I	A	T	U	S		C	R	E	A	S	E		

SUDOKU

2	4	1	5	6	8	7	3	9
7	8	3	1	4	9	6	5	2
5	6	9	7	3	2	1	8	4
9	2	8	4	1	6	3	7	5
3	1	6	9	5	7	4	2	8
4	5	7	8	2	3	6	9	1
1	9	2	6	7	5	8	4	3
6	3	4	2	8	1	9	5	7
8	7	5	3	9	4	2	1	6

MENSA PUZZLE

2 & 0. The digits under each group of letters represent the value of the left hand letter and the reverse alphabetical value of the right hand letter, written as a two digit number.

BULL'S EYE

lama, lame, lima, lime, mail, MALAISE, male, meal, mile, salami, same, seam, slam, slim, slime, smile

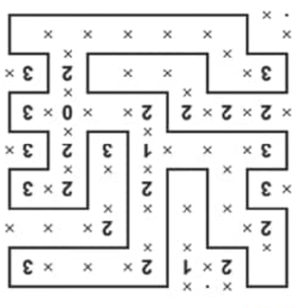
ALPHA TRIANGLE

S, So, Sot, Sort, Forts, Forest, Fosters.

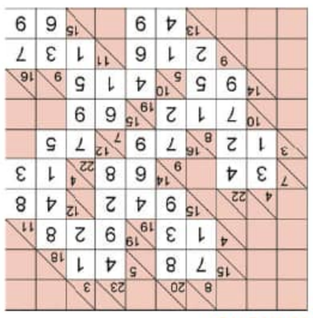
GO FIGURE

Easy
3 + 9 + 2 − 7 = 7
Medium
7 + 4 + 2 + 1 = 14
Hard
2 × 6 / 2 + 5 = 11

LOOP



KAKURO



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